

Eryurek et al. In the present application, such a process device is shown as element 122 in Figure 3.

As set forth in claim 1, a device interface is used to couple to the process device. As mentioned above, such a process device could be the device described in Eryurek et al. A component monitor is used to monitor operation of a component of the process device. These elements are not shown in Eryurek et al.

Similarly, in independent claim 36, a separate device interface is provided which couples to the process device and used as a component monitor. Similarly, claim 37 relates to a method of the invention in which operation of a component of the process device is monitored. These elements are also not shown by the cited references. Further, on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that it would be obvious to combine the teachings of Eryurek to include "Safety Integrity Level (SIL)". However, even if one were to combine the teachings of Eryurek with the teachings of Sederlund, at most one would achieve a process device such as Eryurek placed in the environment described in Sederlund. Therefore, even if the two references are combined, the claimed invention is still patentably distinct.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that column 1, lines 31-36 of Eryurek, "can be cited to reject" the element in the claims, "providing a safety event output in a safety response module responds to a safety event output based on the safety event output." However, the cited section of Eryurek et al. refers to responding to specific diagnostic information. As described in the instant specification, a safety response, or a safety event, is, in the context of a Safety Integrity Level (SIL) system, is quite different from the cited language. The added claim element relates to a SIL system which is capable of responding to a safety event.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the present invention is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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